RURAL

COMMUNITIES AT WORK

ISSUE 2 WINTER 2005

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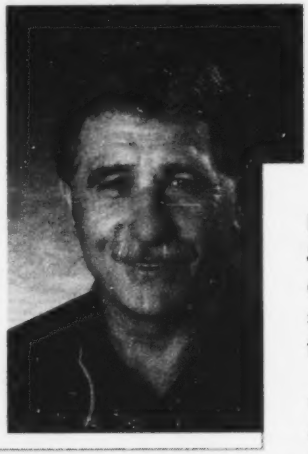

December 2005

Minister of Rural Development

In September of 2005, the Government of Saskatchewan issued *The Saskatchewan Action Plan for the Economy* – a broad vision that builds on our strengths and economic momentum to launch the province into a second century of opportunity and prosperity. The plan sets out actions for sustained growth on four strategic fronts:

- Expand and Build on our Natural Strengths;
- Extend our Success in Research and Innovation;
- Enhance and Promote our Competitive Advantages; and
- Broaden our Economy, Workforce and Jobs.

For more information about the plan, visit www.ir.gov.sk.ca and click on the button marked "A New Century of Opportunity."

In our *New Tools for Business* feature, on page 4 of this publication, we highlight mechanisms that will assist Saskatchewan people in achieving these goals.

Throughout the province, Rural Development staff work hard to nurture the vitality that already exists in rural Saskatchewan. From creating policy based on direct input from rural residents, to offering programs and services that help entrepreneurs grow their businesses, we're helping our communities capture the many opportunities that Saskatchewan offers.

As you will see in the pages of this and future issues of *Communities at Work*, there are a great many good news stories in every corner of the province. It is our job to do everything we can to ensure that these successes continue as we move forward.

Moving toward the final days of 2005, and the holiday season, we have an excellent opportunity to look back on what we have achieved this year and to look forward to the new beginning that 2006 offers. I would like to extend the warmest of holiday greetings to you and wish you happiness and success in the new year.

Clay Serby

ACRE MONITORING COMMITTEE

Since the inception of the Action Committee on the Rural Economy (ACRE), Deputy Premier Serby has made it clear that ACRE's recommendations will not just "sit on a shelf."

Last year, when ACRE's mandate was extended to allow time to complete Phase II, the province also expanded the committee's mandate to give ACRE the authority to monitor the province's implementation of its recommendations.

Now, a Monitoring Committee has been formed to formally review the province's response to each of ACRE's 220 recommendations.

Thad Trefiak will chair the new Monitoring Committee, with the assistance of Vice-Chair Deb Ehmann. Thad and Deb are looking forward to working with the 15 committee members.

"It's important for ACRE to do research and make recommendations," says Thad, "but, if we are going to make a difference in rural Saskatchewan, it is equally important to follow up on those recommendations, and make sure they are carried through."

The Government of Saskatchewan is listening. In October 2005, Rural Development released *ACRE Progress Report On The Recommendations,* a 131-page document that outlines the actions taken on each of the committee's 220 recommendations.

The first task of the committee will be to look at each of the recommendations in the Progress Report and assess government's progress on implementing recommendations and to identify those recommendations that require more work.

During the summer, Rural Development staff contacted all ACRE members to determine their interest in continuing as ACRE members. Members were also asked if they would like to take part in the Monitoring Committee. ACRE members who agreed to participate in the Monitoring Committee attended their first meeting in November.

Thad Trefiak chairs ACRE's new Monitoring Committee

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Visit www.rd.gov.sk.ca/acre; or
- E-mail acre@rd.gov.sk.ca.

NEW TOOLS FOR BUSINESSES

The Government of Saskatchewan's recently announced business development initiatives will benefit entrepreneurs throughout the province.

Recent announcements show further progress on recommendations made by the Action Committee on the Rural Economy (ACRE).

In November, 2005, The Crown Investments Corporation (CIC) established the Entrepreneurial Foundation of Saskatchewan and the Saskatchewan Entrepreneurial Fund to assist with the development and growth of small businesses in the province. The Foundation will provide business advice, mentoring, and support services to aspiring entrepreneurs with the goal of developing investment ready business plans. These business plans will then be eligible for investments from the Fund, which will provide financing of up to $1 million for each approved proposal. For more information about the Foundation and the Fund, call toll free at 1-888-964-2010.

Government also recently announced a program which will involve more First Nations and Métis people in the economic mainstream - The Saskatchewan First Nations and Métis Economic Development Program. Details of the program are being finalized and applications will be available in early 2006. The program will make grants available to Aboriginal business entrepreneurs who want to get involved in growth sectors of Saskatchewan's economy. The funding can also be used to expand existing operations. Applicants will be required to invest some of their own funding into the project. Designated First Nations and Métis economic development organizations will assess proposals and make recommendations to government. The Department of First Nations and Métis Relations will make the final decisions and administer the dispersal of the funds. The program supports the province's Action Plan for the Economy which includes working with First Nations and Métis people to equip and engage them in broadening the economy.

ACRE Chair Audrey Horkoff says the new initiatives are a welcome response to ACRE's efforts to find solutions for the rural economy. "Many of our subcommittees identified that the development of entrepreneur support systems were critical to move the rural economy ahead," Horkoff said. "These initiatives will help young people and seasoned entrepreneurs alike to take the first steps toward building businesses and careers in rural Saskatchewan."

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Call Saskatchewan Rural Development's Policy and Planning Branch at 787-4484.

CO-OP CREATES UNIQUE SOLUTION FOR SMALL TOWN VIABILITY

When the Lake Lenore Grocery Co-operative started in 1997, it looked like a lot of other small-town co-op stores. Now, with the opening of an ever-expanding greenhouse operation in 2004, it wouldn't look out of place in a much larger city.

Planning for the greenhouse started in 2003, when the board for the co-op decided that the best way to deal with tough economic times and even tougher competition was to diversify.

The co-op offers a unique shopping experience. The store and the greenhouse are located under one roof, and shoppers are as likely to peruse the greenhouse as they would the fresh vegetable aisle.

President of the Lake Lenore Grocery Co-operative Ltd. Beryl Bauer has been behind the greenhouse project from the start. "Not only does the greenhouse help to subsidize the grocery store, it also brings people into town," says Bauer. "Other local businesses have all seen the benefits."

Greenhouse manager Jennifer Crone has watched the scope of the operation grow in a short time. The facility started out at 5,400 square feet, but with a spring 2005 addition, and another planned for 2006, it will reach 9,800. That extra space will help them meet increasing demands from local residents and wholesalers throughout the province.

"We are a retail and wholesale operation," says Crone. "We have two large wholesale contracts in Saskatoon and one wholesale customer in Regina, as well as in a few neighbouring towns.

The Lake Lenore Grocery Co-op's greenhouse sells a wide variety of products to buyers around town and around the province.

"We do everything and sell everything that a big city greenhouse does. We sell hanging baskets, perennials, annuals, vegetables, herbs, bedding plants, and we even have a gift shop."

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Call Jennifer Krone, Manager, Lake Lenore Co-op Greenhouse at 368-2288; or
- Call Warren McLeod, Rural Development, at 953-3226.

Co-ops a way of life in Lake Lenore

For the people of Lake Lenore, co-operatives are not just a business – they're a lifeline. The village of 315 people is home to six co-ops that not only provide a wide range of goods and services to area residents, but also provide for numerous families. In fact, Lake Lenore's co-ops employ 30 people, who, in turn, help to support area businesses.

Below is a list of co-op operations that call Lake Lenore home.

- Lake Lenore Agro Co-op Association;
- Lake Lenore and District Seed Cleaning Co-op;
- Lake Lenore Auditorium Co-op;
- Advantage Credit Union;
- Lake Lenore Fisherman's Co-op; and
- Lake Lenore Grocery and Greenhouse Co-op.

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BACKED BY CHARACTER, NOT COLLATERAL

Zach Hainstock's trucking business got a boost from an SBLA loan and business training through the Youth Opportunities Unleashed initiative.

It's often referred to as "the little loan program that could," but you may never have heard of it. Now, in its 16th year, the Small Business Loans Association (SBLA) Program has helped more than 9,500 business to either start or expand, translating into more than 21,000 jobs for rural Saskatchewan. The SBLA has accomplished all this through modest-sized loans.

The program was established to help diversify Saskatchewan's economy by making funding available to non-traditional entrepreneurs, through incorporated SBLAs made up of four or more community-based interest groups, individuals, partnerships, co-operatives or corporations.

In 2004, the maximum loan amount was increased to $15,000 and the program was extended to younger entrepreneurs through the Youth Opportunities Unleashed (YOU) program. One of the first to take advantage of YOU was Zach Hainstock of Langenburg, who negotiated a loan through the Yellowhead Regional Economic Development Authority (REDA) to buy a semi tractor to haul cattle for slaughter. Hainstock, who is 29, recommends the SBLA to young entrepreneurs.

"The basic business plan required was a great decision making tool, and the business has been a learning experience, with all of the additional expenses. But, the timing couldn't have been better to get into cattle hauling, and the loan allowed me to get started for little money, so I can make some money."

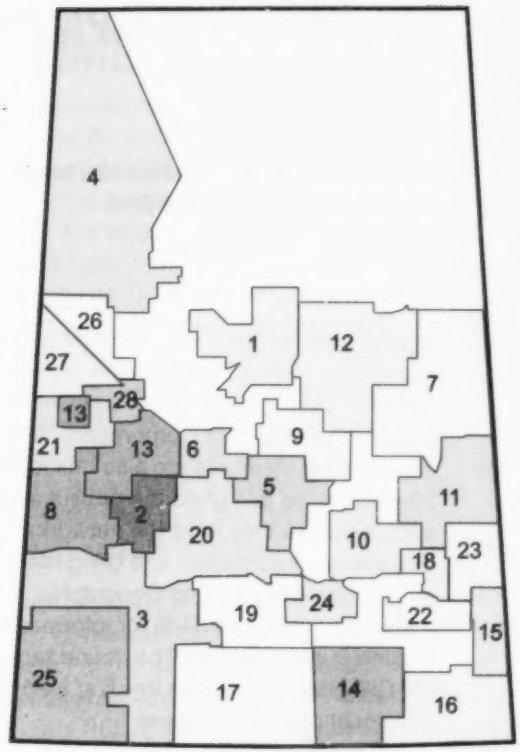
Community involvement in lending decisions is a major reason for the program's success, according to SBLA accounts manager Birdie Thompson. "The loan decision is based on character rather than collateral," explains Thompson. "This allows the SBLA to determine who they will lend to, based on the character and the skills of the individual. The program has been successful in helping clients create a track record, so they can move on to bank financing to develop their businesses."

> The program has been successful in helping clients create a track record.
>
> -Birdie Thompson

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

- Contact Small Business Loans Association Program at 787-7154;
- E-mail: lwelk@rd.gov.sk.ca; or
- Call your local regional office, listed on the back of this publication.

REDA LOCATIONS



1. Prince Albert	953-4388	15. Gateway	435-3177
2. Entrepreneurs 2000	882-1300	16. Cornerstone	453-6097
3. Southwest	778-4240	17. Red Coat	648-3525
4. Northwest	236-2407	18. South Parkland	728-6878
5. Long Lake	946-2223	19. Moose Jaw	693-7335
6. Saskatoon	664-0723	20. Mid Sask	867-9553
7. Etomami	278-2262	21. Border	843-2692
8. West Central	463-1997	22. Mainline	696-2550
9. Carlton Trail	682-2631	23. Yellowhead	743-5177
10. Touchwood	723-4688	24. Regina	522-0227
11. Good Spirit	783-7332	25. Cypress Hills	662-4299
12. North East	862-6732	26. Prairie to Pine	892-2544
13. Midwest	948-2295	27. Big Gully	893-2391
14. South East	842-8001	28. Battlefords	446-7506

REDAs LEADING THE WAY

Economic development requires strategic and sophisticated approaches to creating wealth and jobs and to attracting new investment. Regional Economic Development Authorities are leading the way in this regard. They have pooled their community resources, engaged in strategic partnerships with key economic stakeholders and developed action plans to capitalize on their strengths, resources and talents.

Ultimately, no one knows a region better than the people who live there. REDAs are about community stakeholders taking ownership and responsibility for their own regional economies. Who better to do it?

Every successful organization needs vision and strong leadership. REDAs across the province are led by knowledgeable, committed people. Municipal leaders are the backbone of REDAs. They understand that, through enhanced collaboration and co-ordination and a regional approach, they can achieve real economic growth in their regions.

Saskatchewan Rural Development has been a key partner of REDAs and will continue to enhance this relationship. The Department is committed to being an active partner in facilitating economic growth in rural Saskatchewan.

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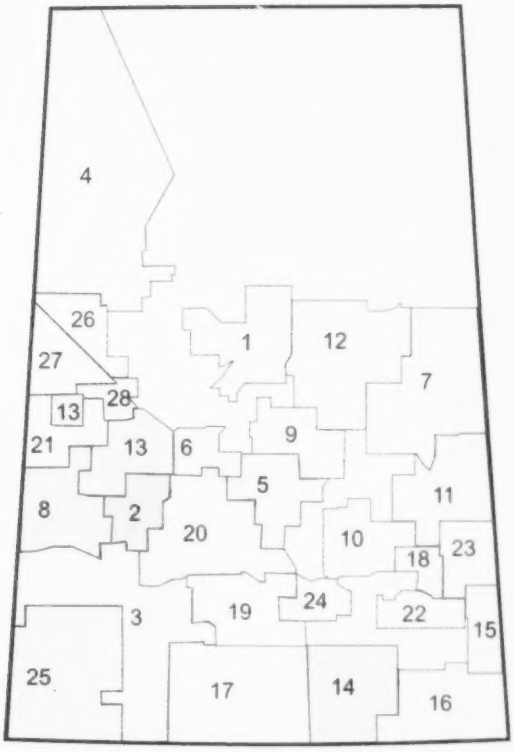

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WATERWOLF PROJECT SPURS DEVELOPMENT

Russ McPherson will spend the next two years working on the Waterwolf project.

One of our province's most scenic drives is about to get even better. People who live along Highway 219 between Saskatoon and Lake Diefenbaker know the landscape is a feast for the eye, but they also recognize the highway has its limits. Through an innovative agreement, several local and regional organizations have developed an agreement in principle with Saskatchewan Highways.

"In the next four years, the agreement calls for the highway to be widened and capped, and to be permanently weight restricted for use by commuter and recreational traffic, opening up the potential for economic development – particularly non-agricultural development – in the whole region. All of the partners will cost-share in the project," explains Russ McPherson. Russ is the manager for the "Waterwolf Project," which encompasses several other ambitious initiatives to address a lack of capacity for regional planning and regional development in the area.

"Waterwolf was established because there was no structure for addressing regional development issues, no consensus for planning infrastructure and development, and no regional table to encourage and facilitate initiatives, among other things," says McPherson, who will spend two years working on the project on behalf of the MidSask REDA and Community Futures Development Corporation. "Many REDA board members are also municipal councillors, so this gives the project a head start, because they have the networks to disseminate information and bring ideas to the table. I also see us using Geographic Information Systems (GIS) for informed decision making in our planning. The round table and the GIS planning tool are key first steps toward a regional planning process."

Other initiatives include the creation of a river valley authority, establishment of a tax and infrastructure agreement among municipalities to accelerate development opportunities, and the creation of a business plan for infrastructure and residential development in the Danielson Park area.

"Board members with Waterwolf see the project as a vital step toward economic development by capitalizing on our unique landscape," McPherson says.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Contact Russ McPherson, Project Manager, at 867-9557 or 867-4097; or
- E-mail: russmcpherson@midsask.ca.

HOMESPUN SHOW IS SMALL-TOWN AND BIG TIME

The Homespun Craft Show attracts more than 4,000 patrons each year.

Billed as "The Biggest Little Craft Show in Saskatchewan," the annual Homespun Craft Show in Carlyle is all of that, and more. Confused? The explanation is fairly simple. When organizers began Homespun with the help of the Carlyle Economic Development Committee, their goal was to create an event that would draw people to the region and showcase what it has to offer. With more than 4,000 patrons attending Homespun each year, the organizers have certainly succeeded. The show is so successful that there is a waiting list of exhibitors from as far away as British Columbia and Ontario who vie for one of the 80 spots in the show.

Homespun has spun off two additional events, an annual Homespun Quilt Show and Sale and Homespun Pantry, featuring homemade food. The three events, which are now projects of the Cornerstone REDA, also rely on about 160 volunteers and broad community support for its success.

"We just couldn't do it without the enthusiasm and hard work of our volunteers," says current Homespun chairperson Judy Riddell, one of the organizers from the start. "It's a very busy weekend; some say it's busier than Christmas. But it's not just about selling crafts. Homespun is a great way to promote not only the town but the parks, the golf courses, the casino and the Alameda Dam," says Riddell, who is also manager of the Cornerstone REDA. "We offer copies of the Carlyle weekly paper and the Country Register (an arts and crafts publication) to patrons, and we inform our exhibitors about attractions in the area. They love the show because of our homespun hospitality. We feel that small town doesn't mean it can't be big time," Riddell says.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Contact Cornerstone REDA at 456-6097; or
- E-mail jriddell@creda.sk.ca.

Members of Cornerstone REDA

- Town of Arcola
- R.M. of Antler #61
- Village of Carievale
- R.M. of Argyle #1
- Town of Carlyle
- R.M. of Brock #64
- Town of Carnduff
- R.M. of Browning #34
- Village of Creelman
- R.M. of Moose Creek #33
- Village of Fillmore
- Village of Gainsborough
- R.M. of Reciprocity #32
- Village of Kisbey
- R.M. of Storthoaks #31
- Town of Lampman
- R.M. of Tecumseh #65
- Town of Redvers
- Town of Stoughton
- City of Estevan
- Town of Wawota
- Sunrise Community Futures
- PFRA
- Spectra Credit Union
- Estevan Chamber of Commerce
- Carlyle Chamber of Commerce
- Royal Bank
- South East Regional College

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- Town of Lampman
- R.M. of Tecumseh #65
- Town of Redvers
- Town of Stoughton
- City of Estevan
- Town of Wawota
- Sunrise Community Futures
- PFRA
- Spectra Credit Union
- Estevan Chamber of Commerce
- Carlyle Chamber of Commerce
- Royal Bank
- South East Regional College

GRASSROOTS PLANNING DRIVES YORKTON REDEVELOPMENT

Yorkton has a lot going for it. It's the largest city in east-central Saskatchewan (population 17,000), with a trading area of about 36,000 square kilometres and 150,000 people. However, like many other centres, Yorkton has seen much of the action shift from the downtown core to the outskirts of the city. There are several ambitious initiatives underway to reverse the trend, and the results are beginning to show, following through on the city's new brand, "Yorkton – Where Good Things Happen."

The big ticket initiative is the recently completed Yorkton Downtown and West Broadway Redevelopment Plan, which resulted from a two-year public participation process which identified arts and culture, historic building architecture, pedestrian-friendly streetscapes and more compatible commercial "anchors" as revitalization goals.

"This is a plan for the people, made by the people," says Jeffrey Humble, Director of Planning and Engineering for the City of Yorkton. "It will succeed because of the level of public participation in the planning."

Proposed projects include themed gateways, an expanded downtown park, a commercial centre themed as a Farmer's Market, and redevelopment of the grounds around the Gallagher Centre, the city's newly renovated recreation and conference centre. It's estimated it will take 10 to 15 years and more than $30 million to complete the plan. It will also require a sustained commitment from the city and local businesses. For Yorkton Mayor Phil DeVos, it's a matter of when, not if.

"We must invest both time and money into our city; otherwise, why would we expect others to come here and do the same?" he asks.

The redevelopment plan has already spawned two other initiatives: a designated Enterprise Zone with financial incentives and tax exemptions to businesses to spur revitalization, and a Business Improvement District where the city and business owners combine matching dollars to invest in revitalizing and promoting the city's business and shopping district.

The results of the plan are already appearing on Yorkton's downtown streetscape, with heritage-style street lamps, planters and a major face lift to the downtown park showing that good things are happening here, and will continue as the redevelopment plan unfolds.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Contact Wayne Clark, Rural Development, at 786-1415; or
- Jeffrey Humble, City of Yorkton, at 786-1727.

Yorkton residents had real input into the city's redevelopment plans.

CREATING A SUCCESS STITCH BY STITCH

Even over a phone line, it's plain to tell that May Warken is bubbling over with enthusiasm over her business's latest milestone.

"My digital garment printer just arrived," she says from her farm home near Big Beaver. "It prints way more colours than traditional silk screening, and there's no fumes and no need for water. It is amazing!"

Warken figures her new garment printer may be the first of its kind in Western Canada, which exemplifies her approach to business – constantly moving toward the next level. Warken's business began modestly when she decided in 2002 to transform her passion for sewing and apparel design into a business by investing in a small embroidery sewing machine. May's Stitchery was born, and before very long, she was not able to keep up with demand. A larger embroidery machine replaced the original, followed by a machine that assists in making crests and banners, a machine that automates material cutting, and digital software that assists her in creating designs. Along the way, she has negotiated four loans from the Small Business Loans Association through the Cool Springs Rural Development Co-operative to help her business grow.

"I'd get one loan to buy a machine, and then pay back the loan. I've done that over and over, and it's worked well for me," Warken says. Today, May's Stitchery produces banners and flags, nursing scrubs, clothing and sports apparel, personalized items for grads and weddings, and promotional items for businesses like Luscar Coal and SaskPower. She employs part-time employees at peak times, and is planning to use the province's Job Start/Future Skills program to train additional employees.

May Warken's stitchery business continues to grow and flourish.

"When I get them trained, I'll have more time to go out and get the work," says Warken, who has traveled all over Saskatchewan and Alberta in search of customers and contracts. "My marketing approach is to go out and see people and show them my products. I enjoy doing that, and I enjoy taking May's Stitchery to the next level."

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Contact May Warken at 306-267-4811.

My marketing approach is to go out and see people and show them my products. - May Warken, owner of May's Stitchery of Big Beaver

MAGAZINE TARGETS ABORIGINAL YOUTH

Shout! editor Michelle Hugli sees a bright future for the publication.

Aboriginal youth across the province have a new voice – and they're being heard loud and clear.

The premiere issue of Shout!, Canada's first Aboriginal youth magazine, was delivered to high schools, post secondary institutions, band and tribal council offices, friendship centres and community and business leaders throughout Saskatchewan in early October.

The magazine is the result of a partnership between MGM Communications, majority owned by Battlefords Tribal Council (BTC), the First Nations University of Canada and CanWest MediaWorks Inc.

"Shout! will give you ideas about fashion, relationships, sports, education and careers, entertainment and fun stuff like horoscopes, jokes and more," said Editor Michelle Hugli. "We hope to reach a more broad audience in the future by making the magazine available through paid subscriptions and in select newsstands."

The magazine provides journalism students from the First Nations University of Canada with the opportunity to be published and mentored in the production of a bona fide print publication. At the same time, students will have the opportunity to address some of the same issues that they may have encountered in their own lives.

The magazine joins an impressive list of business initiatives either controlled by or partnered with BTC.

"BTC was a founding member of the Battlefords REDA and is co-located with them and our North Battleford Regional office," said Rural Development's Regional Programs and Services Manager Jan Swanson.

"The investment in non-traditional industries such as the communications/media sector expands the range of career opportunities available to Aboriginal youth. Shout! is another example of BTC's commitment to providing the education, skills, encouragement and access to opportunity First Nations youth need to succeed," explained Russ Brown, Director of Economic Development with BTC.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Call Russ Brown, Director of Economic Development at 937-6839;
- Call Michelle Hugli, Editor at MGM Communications at 955-4811; or
- Call Jan Swanson, Rural Development, at 446-7444.

REGIONAL FOCUS KEY ELEMENT OF DEVELOPMENT PLAN

More than a year ago several organizations in the Prince Albert area asked, "What can we do to enhance economic development and tourism?" With the help of a consulting firm a large group of partners has produced a strategic plan for regional development that provides individual plans for each partner, as well as a comprehensive plan for the entire region. The partners – led by the Prince Albert Regional Economic Development Authority (PAREDA) – are in the process of giving their final blessings to the plan. As part of the approval process the report is being sent to a small number of rural partners who chose not to be active participants in the plan.

"They were included because they are part of the region," McKay explains. "If we did not engage them there would be gaps in the strategic planning process. By including them we hope to raise their comfort level and they will see the benefits of belonging." The report will likely be unveiled in late January, 2006.

"For each partner, the report reviews the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats for their area within the region," explains Arnie McKay, executive director for the PAREDA. "The plan reveals some interesting statistics, and shows that there are a number of development opportunities for all partners.

"Forestry is one of the focal points of the plan. In fact, since 1999, over 8,000 direct and indirect jobs have been created in Saskatchewan though Forestry. The newly-established Saskatchewan Forest Centre and the Task Force on Forest Development will help to continue this trend. The report will also highlight the importance of diversifying the economy, particularly in areas where we have strong assets, such as tourism and eco-tourism. I think this plan points to an exciting future for our region," McKay states.

Connie Balan, Office Manager of the PAREDA, is working with numerous partners on a regional development plan.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Contact the PAREDA at 953-4388; or
- E-mail cbalan@citypa.com.

Besides the PAREDA, other partners in the strategic plan include:

- Prince Albert Chamber of Commerce
- Prince Albert Community Futures Corporation
- Western Economic Diversification
- R.M. of Birch Hills
- Town of Birch Hills
- Muskoday First Nation
- City of Prince Albert
- James Smith First Nation
- R.M. of Garden River
- R.M. of Buckland
- R.M. of Shellbrook
- Town of Shellbrook
- Prince Albert Grand Council
- R.M. of Kinistino
- Town of Kinistino

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SWIFT CURRENT REGION

SOUTHWEST LEADERS BUILDING NEXT-GENERATION ECONOMY

In early November, the Action Southwest Business Networks Coalition (ASBNC) held a "Determining Our Destiny" celebration to mark the completion of the first phase of an initiative to build a stronger, more regionally-based economy in southwest Saskatchewan. The event was held in Shaunavon and drew municipal leaders, business owners, business development organizations, government representatives and educational institutions from across the region.

> One of the goals of the report was to change attitudes, to think about what we can do together.
>
> -Sandra Blyth

"It was great to see a packed house," says Sandra Blyth, who is managing the initiative. "The report released at the event (Engaging Industry Innovation Report) encompassed the broadest range of stakeholders possible, and was hugely collaborative. Leaders from across the region's communities and industries agree that it's time for a new way of thinking and acting. If we work together – thinking regionally – we can shape the next steps in development and begin determining our own destiny."

The regional economic strategy in the report is a consensus on what participants see as necessary to build the next generation economy. The strategy draws on other regional and provincial economic development strategies, such as the work of the Action Committee on the Rural Economy, Clearing The Path and Action Saskatchewan. It also identifies Phase II, which includes 30 action plans where the strategy will be applied in the areas of energy, manufacturing, tourism and agribusiness.

"During the evening, we launched the Action Southwest Fund, which will help us get these projects off the ground," Blyth says. "These projects will serve as a rallying point for continued regional collaboration. One of the goals of the report was to change attitudes, to think about what we can do together. I see that people involved in this initiative are now thinking beyond their own borders, and I think that's the foundation of our future success," Blyth says.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Call Sandra Blyth, Action Southwest, at 778-6445;
- Visit www.actionsouthwest.com; or
- Call Saskatchewan Rural Development at 778-8415.

A large crowd was in attendance at the Action Southwest Business Networks Coalition's "Determining Our Destiny" celebration.

COMING EVENTS

January 21, 2006

The Amazing Woman
Featuring Beth Robinson speaking on the Balancing Act for Women.
9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Kindersley
- Contact West Central REDA at 306-463-1997.

January 25, 2006 to February 1, 2006

BYOB – Build Your Own Business
A series of events for rural entrepreneurs who are developing a new business venture or enterprise in the community or on the farm.
January 25, 2006, 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Watrous Civic Centre, Watrous

January 18, 2006, 9:00 a.m. to 4:15 p.m.
Bella Vista Hotel, Humboldt

February 1, 2006, 9:00 a.m. to 4:15 p.m.
St. Odilion Roman Catholic Hall, Rosthern

- Contact Saskatchewan Agriculture and Food's Agriculture Business Centre at 306-933-6128.

February 6-7, 2006

The Contemporary Director
Presented by the Saskatchewan Co-operative Association, this course explores the roles and responsibilities of directors in co-operatives and Credit Unions.
The Co-operators Building, 1920 College Ave., Regina
Cost $355 plus GST
*This course, together with "Co-operatives: the Basics" is also available for regional delivery upon request.

- Contact the Saskatchewan Co-operative Association at 306-244-3702 or e-mail: sca@sask.coop

February 16, 2006

Swift Current Job Fair
Cypress Hills Regional College, 129 2nd Ave. NE, Swift Current
- Contact Swift Current Chamber of Commerce at 773-7268

March 1, 2006

Living, Laughing, Learning – Celebrating the Spirit of Rural Women
Dynamic Women in Business – One-day conference
- Contact Southwest Community Futures Development Corporation at 306-773-0900.

Saskatchewan Rural Development

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